GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3551
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006
WATCH ON EXPENDITURE
Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Finance has any representative in Ministry of Railways to keep a watch on expenditure on the finances of Government of India and full implementation of its instructions and guidelines issued by them on expenditure management;

(b) if so, the details of achievement of the representative;

(c) whether Ministry of Railways is manipulating the instructions and guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance in the year 2004 and 2005 on expenditure management and austerity;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) the details of vehicles sanctioned by the Finance Officers of Railways Board on replacement account on the pretext of `Operational requirement` during the last three years;

(f) the steps/guidelines issued by Ministry of Railways in controlling the expenditure on Petrol and Diesel; and

(g) the details of senior officers booked for misusing of the vehicles in Indian Railway?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (g): A report in the matter was called for from the Financial Commissioner(Railways) the head of the Railway Financial Organisation, Railways Board. It has been confirmed by the Board that railway expenditure is incurred keeping in view the austerity instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. Ministry of Railways implements the austerity guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, including guidelines issued in 2004 and 2005 mutatis mutandis. These guidelines have been further issued by the Ministry of Railways to all the General Managers/Chief Accounts Officers, in the field, for implementation.

The number of vehicles sanctioned under Machinery and Plant Programme during the last three years on replacement account is as under:

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2004-05  276
2005-06  133
2006-07  177
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The Ministry of Railways issues guidelines from time to time to their field formations for observing austerity measures keeping in view the austerity instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance. The officers use vehicles for undertaking operational functions/ requirement of the Railways. No senior officer has been booked for misusing the vehicles